is being obtained from the Government of Maharashtra and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Renaming Connaught Place and Connaught Circus

1744. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Connaught Place and Connaught Circus have recently been renamed as Rajiv Chowk and Indira Chowk respectively;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision has been challenged in the Delhi High Court as being violative of the Home Ministry Regulations dated 26th September, 1976 in this regard;

(c) whether the Delhi High Court has called upon the Union Government to clarify its stand in this regard; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the affidavit filed by them in reply to the High Court's directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The decision to rename Connaught Place and Connaught Circus as "Rajiv Chowk" and "Indira Chowk" respectively was taken by the Government as far back as August, 1995.

(b) to (d) yes, Sir. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Terrorist activities in Jharkhand

1745. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Jharkhand has been in the grip of terror let loose by several illegal groups of anti-social ultras;

(b) if so, the details of the terrorist activities committed by these groups in Jharkhand since its creation;

(c) the details of the support provided to the State Government to tackle the menace; and

(d) whether concrete action by the neighbouring States to detect the hide-outs of these ultra groups in their respective territories and apprehend them, are being adequately coordinated and implemented especially with a view to bring the members of these terrorist groups to book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Left Wing Extremist groups have been responsible for violent activities in Jharkhand. During the current year, there have been 289 violent incidents resulting in 177 deaths as against 289 incidents resulting 167 deaths in the corresponding period last year.

(c) An amount of Rs. 40.15 crores was released to the Government of Jharkhand during 2000- 2001, as Central share, under the Modernisation of State Police forces, to modernize and equip the State Police to combat, among others, extremist activities more effectively. Moreover, Jharkhand State has been included under the Scheme of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure to State affected by left wing extremism, under which State Government would be reimbursed 50% of the expenditure incurred by them in combating left wing extremist activities in the State.

Central Para-Military Forces have been made available to the State for assisting them to tackle the menace.

(d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Government to devise various methods and take concrete steps to curb left wing extremist activities in the State. However, keeping in view the overall dimensions of left wing extremist activities in some States, a high level Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the seriously affected States, as its members, regularly reviews and coordinates steps taken by the States to check left extremist activities, monitors the plan of action in respect of each State and makes recommendations both on developoment and security aspects of the problem.

Several important decision such as providing financial support from the Centre for combating left wing extremist activities, preparation of plans for development of affected areas to tackle the problem in a holistic manner, sharing of intelligence inputs, and providing assistance of para-military forces on need basis etc. have been taken by the Centre and effectively followed-up.

A Coordinated Action Group has been formed for coordinating action against extremists among the affected States. Police officers of seriously affected States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa as well as representatives of Central organization, are its members.